

THE MINUTES OF THE WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING January 16, 2002

Chairman Brusch called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Members absent were: W. Hofmann and L. McCormick

1. Member Heigham made a motion, Member Oates second said motion and it was voted to accept the minutes of December 5, 2001.
2. Chairman Brusch reviewed projected revenues for FY03 and noted that interest on investments will have to be reduced from \$ 525,000.00 to \$225,00.00 because of declining interest rates. Chairman Brusch noted that Mel, Steve, Joyce, and Ernie would also be reviewing the projected revenue for FY03. Member Monahan stated that the Board of Selectmen is considering the Capital Budget and borrowing for these programs. Member Monahan also noted that the McLean lawsuit is scheduled to be heard in March 2002, with decision and final resolution sometime in early summer 2002. The Plaintiffs in the ADA case against the Town are strongly opposed against postponing the date in making the Town Hall handicapped accessible. Chairman Brusch noted that the Town might have to utilize the excess levy capacity of \$523,000.00 for the architect design fees for the Town Hall Annex Project. This amount plus what is already in the budget should be sufficient to fund the cost through April 2002. Other suggested potential savings included management and more union personnel foregoing increases as well as union members. Mel and Joyce are working on an Early Retirement Incentive Program for town employees. Member Freiner suggested consolidation of departments including Buildings and Grounds being combined with the Public Works department. Member Hobbs suggested a trash fee. Chairman Brusch suggested that every town-operating department except Police and Fire, shut down for a two-week period in the summer.
3. There was a general discussion on the Finance Consolidation proposal offered by the Town Administrator, specifically the position of Finance Director/Town Accountant. Member Clark believes that the Town should keep alive the idea of the consolidated finance functions, since in the long run it will be more effective. That the Board of Selectmen's position will be enhanced by having the Finance Director under the direction of the Town Administrator. That the town budget is similar to the school budget in size and that the School Department provides a more integrated approach to finances than that on the Town's side. Member Flewelling stated that the Treasurer's position should be elected as a check and balance system. Member Heigham believes that an elected Treasurer under an appointed Town Administrator will not work. Selectmen Brownsberger stated there would be a non-binding question on the town ballot and that he is planning to place an article in the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Warrant seeking a home rule petition for the consolidated position. Assessing Administrator Bob Reardon, expressed the belief that it would be difficult for him to serve under an appointed Finance Director/Town Accountant and serve an elected Board of assessors.
4. It was agreed to the following order of presentations at the public meeting on February 6, 2002:

Mike Widmer- State Outlook

Member White- 5-year forecast

Mel Kleckner- Town's FY03 presentation

Dr. Holland- School's FY03 presentation

Open for public questions and discussion.

5. Voted to adjourn at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Szabo

Recording Clerk